

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 515

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James Roy Tipton.

WHEREAS, it was with great sorrow that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our State learned of the passing of James Roy Tipton, a gentleman of the highest honor and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Tip, as he was known to his friends and family, served his country honorably in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1945 during World War II on the U.S.S. Fechteler; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton was awarded a Purple Heart when his ship was torpedoed by a German U-boat on May 5, 1944, and left Mr. Tipton severely injured; the extended stay at the veterans hospital that followed instilled in James Tipton a life-long desire to honor America's war veterans; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to civilian life, James Tipton took a commercial art course at Stair Tech School and began his own sign business, Tip Signs, in Maryville, Tennessee; he operated the business until his retirement in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton used his talent for art to honor veterans when he designed the Blount County War Dead Memorial in front of the Blount County Courthouse and a Tennessee monument in Gettysburg National Park; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton was instrumental in the building of the Blount County War Dead Memorial, not only designing it, but forming a committee primarily of veterans to help bring the monument to fruition; and

WHEREAS, a leader in many organizations for veterans, James Tipton was state commander of the Disabled American Veterans and a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars,

Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Legion, and the United Veterans of Blount County, for which he was a commander of several local chapters; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep faith, Mr. Tipton was a long-time member of Broadway Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, James Tipton was preceded in death by his loving wife of over sixty years, Barbara Joyce Tipton; he will be sorely missed by his children, Stephen Tipton and Pamela Webber; grandchildren, Bill, Jim, April, Rebecca, Jason and Justin; eight great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious life, James Roy Tipton was a man of integrity and virtue, earning the respect and admiration of all who had the opportunity to know him; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the meritorious life of this exceptional man; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of James Roy Tipton, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to the United States of America, the State of Tennessee, and our veterans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Tipton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.